

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 through 4 and add new claims 5 and 6 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An air intake device of an internal combustion engine, comprising: a restriction valve provided in an air intake path of the internal combustion engine; and an air flow rate sensor₁ provided in the air intake path and disposed on the downstream side of the restriction valve, for measuring the flow amount of air suctioned into the air intake path; wherein

the air flow rate sensor comprises;

an air flow path which is formed linearly along the axis thereof and which is provided so that the axis thereof is inclined with respect to the axis of the air intake path;
and

a sensor element ~~disposed~~ provided in the air flow path, ~~and is disposed so that the axis of the air flow path is inclined with respect to the axis of the air intake path and~~
disposed on the axis of the air intake path.

2. (Currently Amended) The air intake device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein

the restriction valve comprises~~[[:]]~~ a turning shaft which is perpendicular to the axis of the air intake path and blade portions for opening and closing the air intake path which turns centering around the turning shaft; and

the air flow rate sensor is disposed so that the axis of the air flow path is inclined substantially in the same direction of the blade portions in a state where the air intake path is opened by turning the blade portions.

3. (Currently Amended) The air intake device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein

the angle of the axis of the air flow path with respect to the axis of the air intake path is 30° or more but 60° or less.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring air intake amount of an internal combustion engine,

comprising:

suctioning air into an air intake path of the internal combustion engine; and

measuring the amount of the suctioned air into the air intake path by using an air flow rate sensor provided in the air intake path and disposed on the downstream side of a restriction valve; wherein~~which measures the amount of air suctioned into the air intake~~
path

the air flow rate sensor comprises:

an air flow path which is formed linearly along the axis thereof and which is provided so that the axis thereof is inclined with respect to the axis of the air intake path;
and

a sensor element provided in the air flow path and disposed on the axis of the air intake path.

~~by using an air flow rate sensor, including a sensor element and an air flow path having the sensor element disposed therein, which is disposed on the downstream side of the restriction valve in the air intake path of an internal combustion engine so that the axis of the air flow path is inclined with respect to the axis of the air intake path; wherein — the air amount is calculated on the basis of the flow rate of air flowing into the air flow path.~~

5. (New) The air intake device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein

the air flow path of the air flow rate sensor is formed so that a middle part of the air flow path at which a sensor element of the air flow rate sensor is located is narrower than an inlet end and an outlet end of the air flow path.

6. (New) The air intake device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein

the air flow rate sensor is disposed so that a sensor element is located on an axis of the air intake path.